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SUBJECT Chinese Communist Military
Strength, Indochina border

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Between 5 and 12 March 1950 service on the Hankow-Canton railroad was severely curtailed by heavy Communist troop movements, the bulk of which was south along the Hengyang-Liuchow line. The troops stated that they were going to Kwangsi to prepare for an invasion of Indochina. Unusual security precautions were taken to prevent the troops from contacting the public.*

11 March 1950

2. There are 700,000 Chinese Communist troops on the Indochina border at Laokay, Kaoping, Chennankuan and Ping'erhkuang.**

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* ☐ Comment.

was unable to identify the units.

saw the troop trains leave Hengyang.

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Comment. These are undoubtedly LIN Piao's troops.

the figure is exaggerated and that a more accurate figure would be 250,000 troops, which would comprise 10 or 15 of the Communist armies under LIN's command. [] a Communist attack on Indochina is likely in the near future.

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Comment. On 16 March Radio Manila broadcasted the following

Item:

"Saigon -- French Army Commander General Marcel Carpentier told Reuters News Agency today that about 700,000 regular Chinese Communist troops

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[illegible]

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were concentrated in Kwangsi areas near the classic invasion route to Indochina. There was no sign of the Chinese preparing to move southward to the frontier which the French were holding very strongly, he said. Viet Minh rebel forces were receiving arms and ammunition from China, but so far no Chinese Communist forces had penetrated the frontier, the general added."

A possible motive for the troop movements reported in paragraph 1 is the invasion of Hainan, not Indochina. The large forces mentioned in paragraph 2 may be concerned with controlling Nationalist and anti-Communist guerrillas in the area mentioned as well as passing supplies to Viet Minh forces. [] [] which

reports 180,000 troops of LIN's forces in Kwangsi in early March. See also [] concerning the transfer to Yunnan of the troops of CHEN Keng, who is reported to be the Communist Governor of Yunnan.

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